

My name is Elon Atlaw and I am a student at Northwood High School in Montgomery County. I am also a member of Fans of Immigration and Asylum Reform (FAIR), a student-advocacy group in Montgomery County that fights for humane detention policies, and reform of the asylum and immigration system.

I am writing to you today to urge you to support SB129: Access to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings. Multiple studies show that legal representation can make or break immigration cases. We know that more than 600 children of detained Marylanders are affected by a parent being deported or detained. I have seen firsthand deportation and detention harshly affect my classmates. We support SB129 because we believe in universal representation: the right of ALL people to due process under the law regardless of their background or merit of case.

I urge you to support SB129, youth voices are counting on you.